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In this issue:

R/UDAT, an idea whose time has come for Albuquerque and Carlsbad. The story begins on page 7.

The Regional Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT) came to Albuquerque to look at the Central Avenue Corridor and to recommend plans for the future of the avenue. Another Team visited Carlsbad and made important recommendations for that city.

But your editor is reminded of a particular article that appeared years ago in this magazine. It might be instructive and fascinating for our readers to review a 1962 view of Albuquerque's Central Avenue as "the spine on which the city hanges". Harold Benson, AIA, looked at Albuquerque and its "spine" in the March/April, 1962 issue of **New Mexico Architecture.** Benson discussed many of the same problems currently addressed by the R/UDAT members. Twenty two years separate these two views of Central Avenue, but both address the needs for mass transportation, pedestrian pathways and new traffic patterns.

nma

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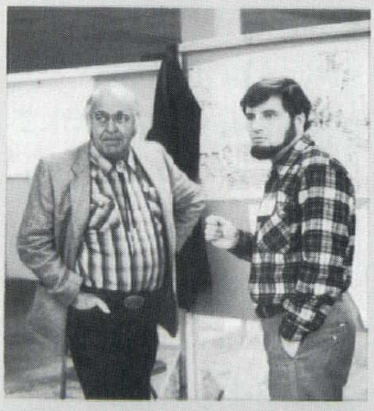
(Cover—Albuquerque—Kirk Gittings—Syntax)



Mayor Harry Kinney and R/UDAT member Jerry Stebbins think about Albuquerque's future.

Will Albuquerque finally look to its most important avenue? Certainly the R/UDAT members brought attention to the "spine" of Albuquerque and made important and exciting suggestions for its future. I hope that Albuquerque's leaders will heed the recommendations made and press onward towards implementation.

The Albuquerque R/UDAT story appears in this issue. The Carlsbad story will appear in the May/June issue.

□ □ □

We are indebted for the contribution by photographer Kirk Gittings, for the cover photograph of Albuquerque as seen from the West Mesa.

JPC

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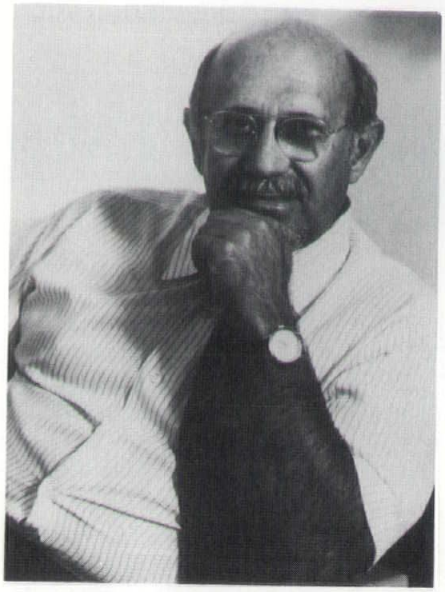
George Anselevicius Made AIA Fellow



George Anselevicius of Albuquerque has been advanced to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

Fellowship is a lifetime honor bestowed for notable contributions to the profession of architecture. The newly honored 85 Fellows will be invested on Monday June 10, at the AIA National Convention in San Francisco.

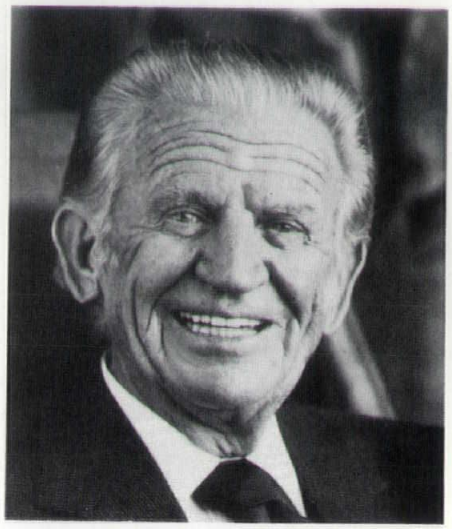
Dean of The School of Architecture and Planning at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque for 3 years, Dean Anselevicius is also partner of the architectural firm Anselevicius & Rupe, Associates, of St. Louis and Albuquerque. His past experience include the positions of Dean of the School of Architecture, Washington University in St. Louis, Chairman of The Department of Architecture at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard, and Chairman of the Department of Architecture at the State University in New York and Buffalo. Additionally, he has taught Architectural Design in India, Switzerland and Mexico. As a practicing Architect, he and his firm have been the recipients of numerous national design awards, including the Washington University Law School & Social Science Building in St. Louis, the Kirksville, Missouri, Christian Church, the St. Louis Chronic Hospital Recycling and the Communications Workers of America Office Building in St. Louis. He has served as Design Consultant to the U.S. Department of State, Foreign Buildings Operation, and has been an Awards Panel Jurist in numerous states and regions. Author of numerous nationally and internationally published articles and book reviews on Art and Architecture, Dean Anselevicius is currently serving the National Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture as President-Elect.

Death Claims Prominent Architects

During the long freeze of **New Mexico Architecture** the hand of death seized four architects whose lives touched and influenced New Mexico.

On January 2, 1984 Ron L. Hutchinson, AIA died of a heart attack at the too young age of 36. A native of Roswell, New Mexico, he joined the architectural firm of Kruger, Lake & Pogue in Albuquerque, where he rose to become a Partner. In 1980 the firm ownership became Hutchinson, Brown & Partners. One of the first projects Ron designed for the Kruger firm was the First Baptist Church in Albuquerque and the most recently completed project was the renovation and remodeling of the old Hudson Hotel on Central Avenue for the firm's own offices.

Willard C. Kruger, AIA, a native of New Mexico, founded his own firm in 1937 in Santa Fe. The firm of W. C. Kruger & Associates became one of the largest and most prominent in the state. The firm is noteworthy for its long association with work at the state capitol complex in Santa Fe, including the "Roundhouse", wherein the present Governor continues his personal war with the childlike "Conservative Collation" in the Legislature. Kruger was, also, the architect for Los Alamos when it was founded to develop the atomic bomb during World War II.



Willard C. Kruger

Willard was born in Raton and, in addition to his architectural career, had been active in the state as Chairman of the State Racing Commission and as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Albuquerque. Willard died on June 5, 1984, after a lengthy battle with cancer.

On June 13, 1984 Nathaniel W. Owings, FAIA died at his home in Jacoma, New Mexico; he was 81. Nat was a long part-time resident of our state and, certainly, a lover of northern New Mexico's unique architectural heritage. He was a founder of one of the world's most prestigious and prolific architectural firms: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (known today as SOM). The firm began its long and still prosperous career by being selected as architects for the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. The firm has won numerous awards for its outstanding architectural design work. One of its buildings, Lever House in New York City, has already become to be considered a "Landmark". In Santa Fe Owings became a controversial figure in the 1970's for his efforts to develop a master plan for the expansion of

Continued on page 17

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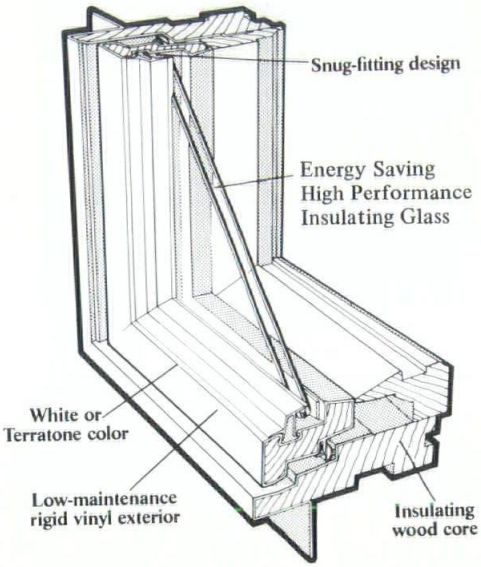

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R/UDAT COMES TO NEW MEXICO

By: Van Dorn Hooker, FAIA
Roger Lujan, AIA (Albuquerque)
Beryl Durham, AIA (Carlsbad)

INTRODUCTION:

I'm sure, in the short life of R/UDAT, there have been few times when two teams have gone outside the country at the same time to provide planning services. This is a local joke of course since there are still so many people in the United States that do not think of New Mexico as one of the Fifty. **New Mexico Magazine** has a column entitled, "One Of Our Fifty is Missing" in which they print stories about people from outside our "country" requesting passports, information on innoculations, duty on imports to be taken back into the United States, etc. Telephone operators refer long distance calls to the Overseas Operator. Welcome R/UDAT members. Did you have any problems with Customs?

Let me explain R/UDAT. For more than a decade the American Institute of Architects has been sending Regional/Assistance Urban Design Teams (R/UDAT) to American communities that have called for help with urban planning and design problems. Cities with a combined population of more than 10 million citizens have thereby been served and professional services valued in excess of $2 million dollars have been donated.

Teams are selected for their capacity to respond to the particular problems of each community. They are made up of people who are tops in their fields: urban designers, economists, sociologists, growth management experts, political scientist and lawyers, as well as architects. They volunteer their time, because they believe in the urgent cause of our cities. Although their traveling and living expenses are reimbursed, they agree not to accept commissions resulting from the study. The team spends four days working on the study; they get acquainted with the local problem, meet with community leaders and groups, hold public meetings and call on local resource people to define problems. The team establishes strategies and develops courses for action. Their final recommendations are then presented at a public meeting. After that it is up to the local AIA chapter, local citizens and community leaders to evaluate the recommendations and to implement them.

The fact that New Mexico had two R/UDATs at the same time, November 15-19, 1984, in Albuquerque and Carlsbad seems to have been coincidental. The Albuquerque Chapter, AIA and the New Mexico Southern Chapter, AIA were working independently and looking at very different community problems. I'm sure it will never happen again.

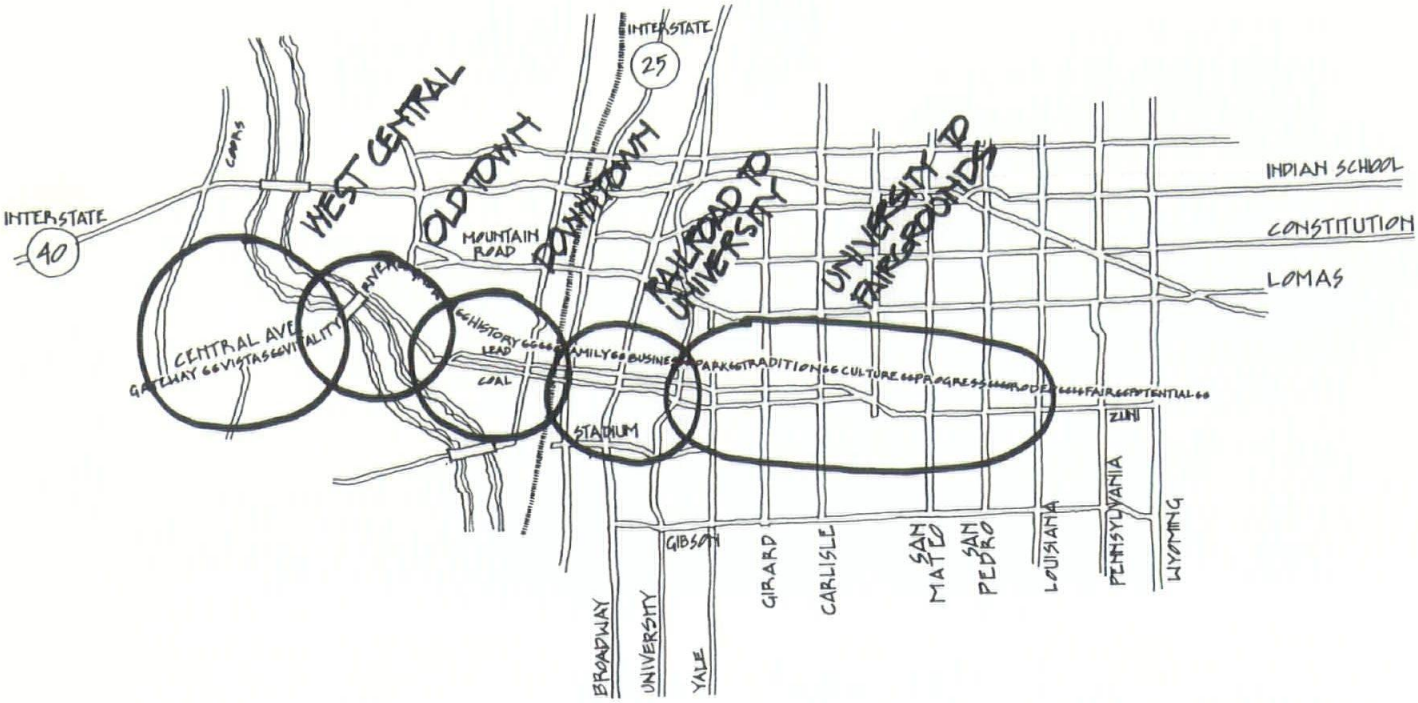
Both the Albuquerque and Carlsbad R/UDATs received good press and television coverage, but the local architects and the AIA chapters that sponsored it, as well as the American Institute of Architects, were badly short changed. In the many articles about the R/UDAT that appeared in the Carlsbad **Current-Argus** not a single mention was made about the New Mexico Southern Chapter or the AIA. The Albuquerque press covered the study well, but in all the articles in the **Journal** and the **Tribune** only Jeff Smith and V. B. Price mentioned the role of the AIA in their reports. The reporters seem to believe that "RUDAT", they usually omitted the slash, is an organization unto itself. They did not understand that only through the efforts of the local AIA members and the national organization can a R/UDAT study be obtained.

It is my opinion that if this is what happens at every R/UDAT visit, there is something sadly lacking in the organization and presentation of these valuable and vital programs. I don't recall hearing one mention of the AIA's role in the study when the final presentation was made in Albuquerque, but maybe I just missed it.

Van Dorn Hooker, FAIA

The R/UDAT members listen to citizen concerns in a Public Forum. Left to right: Craig Halvorsen, Michael Dobbins, Clifford Graves, Rick Kuner and John Stebbins. Not shown Louis Viramontes and Kirby Lockard. (Photograph: Van Dorn Hooker)

R/UDAT - Albuquerque



The idea for having an American Institute of Architects Regional Urban Design Assistance Team come to Albuquerque originated with Albuquerque architect, Mark Schiff, AIA, who was concerned with the uncoordinated developments which are taking place, or are being planned, along Central Avenue. He has seen first hand what a R/UDAT could do for a city, when he served as a student assistant on a R/UDAT project in Portland, Oregon in 1975; at the time he was a student at the University of Oregon. Schiff felt that R/UDAT could be a unifying planning effort that would involve many groups and individuals interested in Central Avenue, such as: business people, real estate developers and agents, public officials, institutions, neighborhood associations and other special interest groups.

In March, 1984 Schiff made his proposal to the Board of Directors of the Albuquerque Chapter, AIA. It was referred to the chapter's Urban Design Committee, which was chaired by Robert McCabe, AIA. Schiff met with the committee several times to define the aim and scope of a R/UDAT effort. The committee then sent a letter to the AIA's national headquarters in Washington, D.C. stating the desire for a R/UDAT project. Bruce Kriviskey, Director of Urban and R/UDAT Programs, came to Albuquerque to help the people involved to understand R/UDAT and to develop an application. Schiff, with the support of Harold L. Stewart, Executive Director of Albuquerque Center, Inc. and Susan Bennett of ACI, prepared the application.

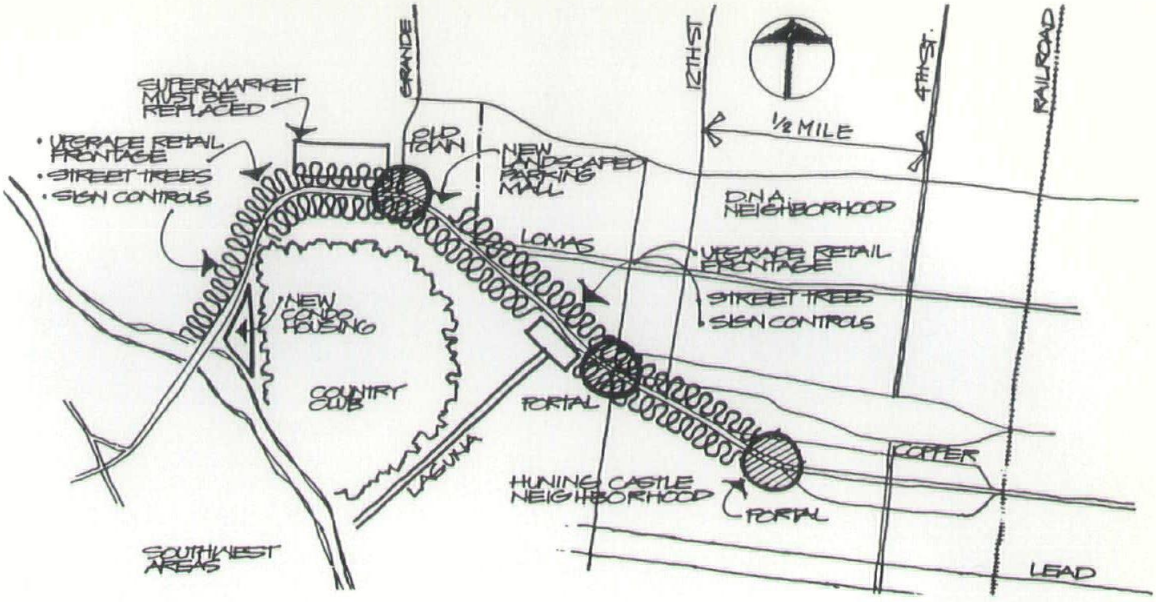
After the proposal was approved by AIA's R/UDAT Task Group, the Chairman, Charles Redmon, AIA, of Boston visited the city, set up the logistics, established dates and put together a team headed by Clifford Graves, AICP, Chief Administrative Officer of San Diego, California.

In the meantime the Albuquerque Chapter, AIA, had appointed a R/UDAT Steering Committee composed of fifteen members representing the Chapter, city government and interested citizens. Schiff, Roger Lujan, AIA, and Dale Dekker, AIA, were appointed co-chairman. Graves then came to Albuquerque; he met with the mayor, the Steering Committee, and citizens groups. He established a format for the project and set dates.

The AIA Steering Committee arranged for public meetings, hotel accommodations for the team members and a place for them to work. A recently restored building at Fifth and Central, the McCanna-Hubbell Building later known as the Gas and Electric Building, was offered by its owners, Michael McCoun and the Fifth and Central Partnership. Jim Bishop, a contractor, installed temporary partitions, restaurants supplied food, architects gave money for film and supplies, Albuquerque Public Schools supplied tables and chairs, Public Service Company of New Mexico loaned their airplane to give the team an aerial view of Central Avenue. There were many other contributions from individuals, businesses and institutions.

The budget for the project had been set at about $17,000. Cash contributions came to $10,000 and the balance was in in-kind donations. The city loaned cars and busses for transportation of the team, the mayor's office provided staff assistance and maps, and the Convention Center was used for the final presentation to the public.

Besides Graves, the team consisted of Michael A. Dobbins, AIA, an architect and planner from Birmingham, Alabama; Craig Halvorson a landscape ar-



The Rio Grande to downtown

chitect in private practice; Rick Kuner, AICP, president of a Chicago firm specializing in transportation, planning and real estate analysis; W. Kirby Lockard, FAIA, professor of architecture at the University of Arizona; John Stebbins, AIA, architect and urban designer from Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Louis Viramontes, AIA, an architect from San Antonio, Texas specializing in the development of historic commercial properties. Fourteen students from the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of New Mexico acted as the support staff.

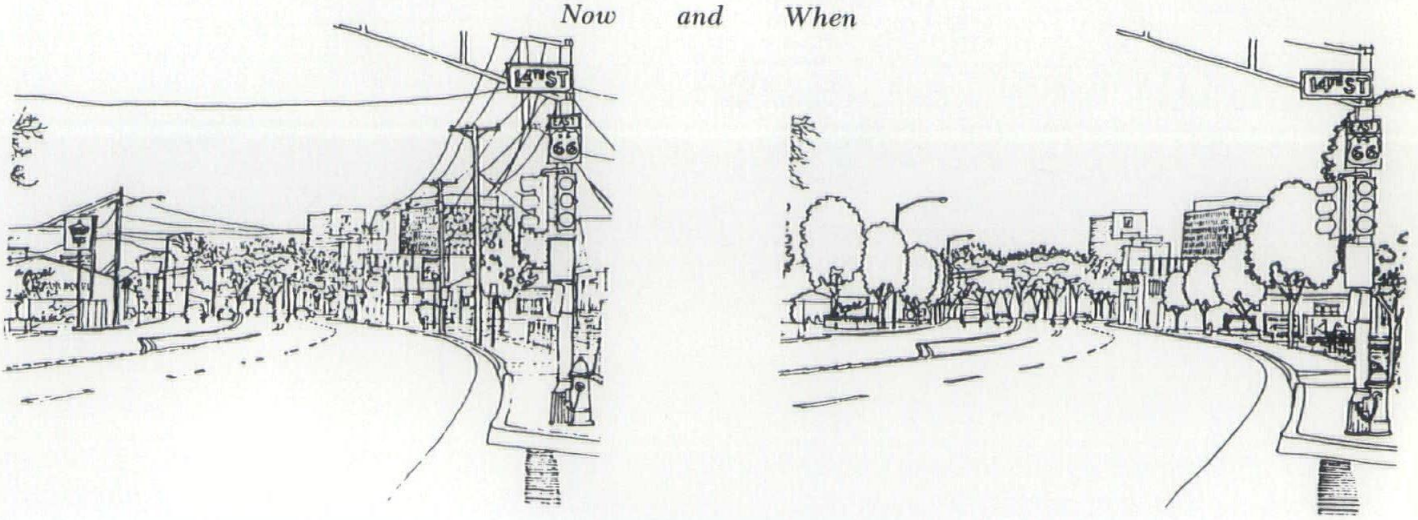
The charge to R/UDAT was to look at Central Avenue, Route 66, from Atrisco on the west to the Fair Grounds on the east and make recommendations for the revitalization of the street.

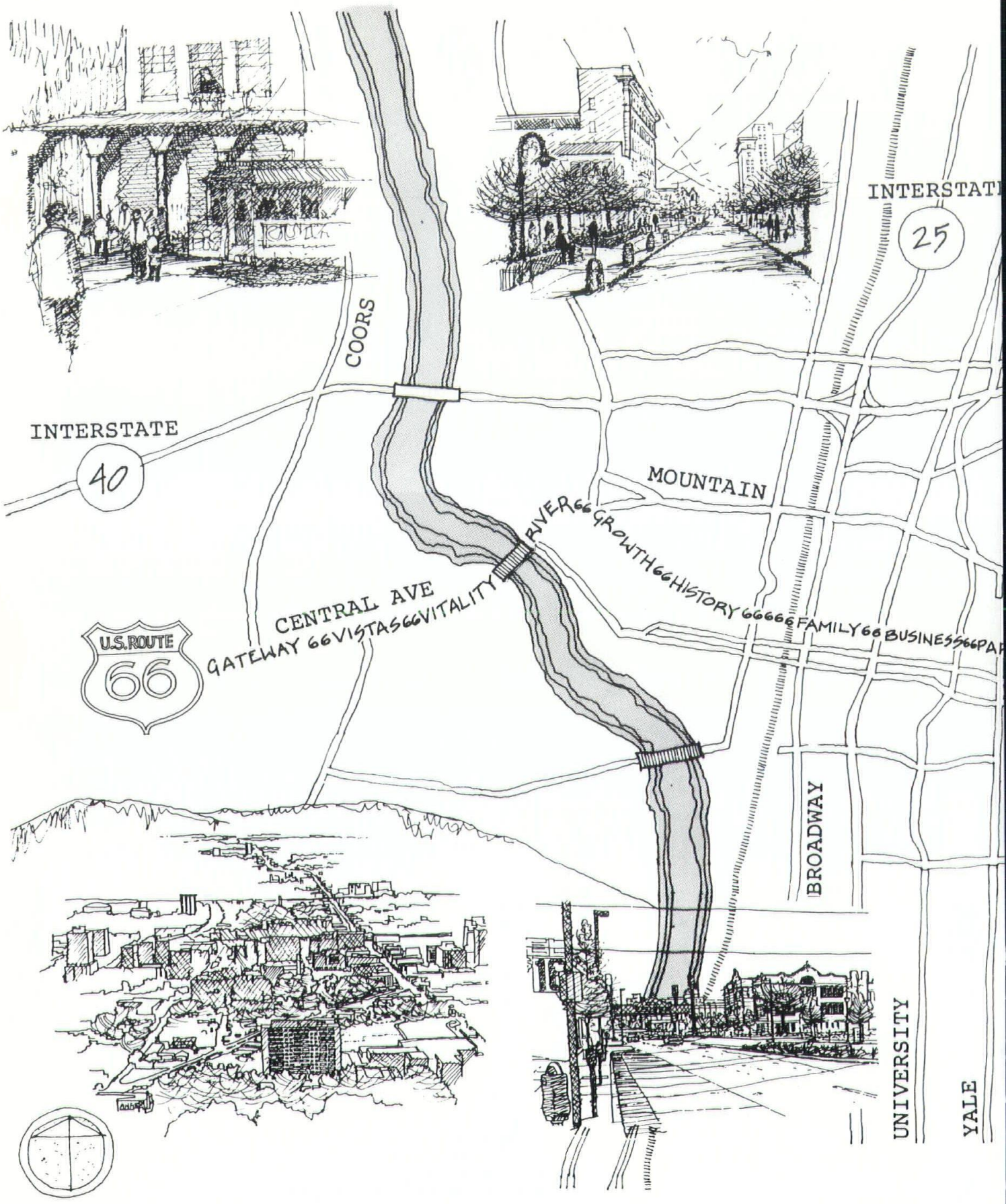
The team began its work on November 15, 1984, with a series of presentations by people representing institutions, businesses, civic groups and neighborhood organizations involved with Central Avenue. After receiving this input and looking at the street from one end to the other, the team, with the assistance of the student support staff, spent long hours putting together the final presentation material. On the last day they worked around the clock to be able to be ready for the public presentation.

In the final report the team noted the opportunities that exist for revitalizing Central Avenue, including a broad based citizen interest, strong neighborhood movements, cooperation in the planning efforts of the several institutions along the Avenue, and the use of the City's legal, administrative, and financial devices as incentives for high-quality development. Five compatible roles for the street were identified:

1. A pathway through Albuquerque's history like a section across the rings of a tree, Route 66 Central Avenue traces the growth of the city travelling west to east.
2. There is no place in Albuquerque where diverse cultures come together more naturally than Central Avenue.
3. The Avenue should be redesigned as a multimodal transportation corridor for pedestrians, bicyclists, cars, and public and specialized transit systems.
4. Central Avenue should be developed to strengthen the adjacent neighborhoods through

Now and When

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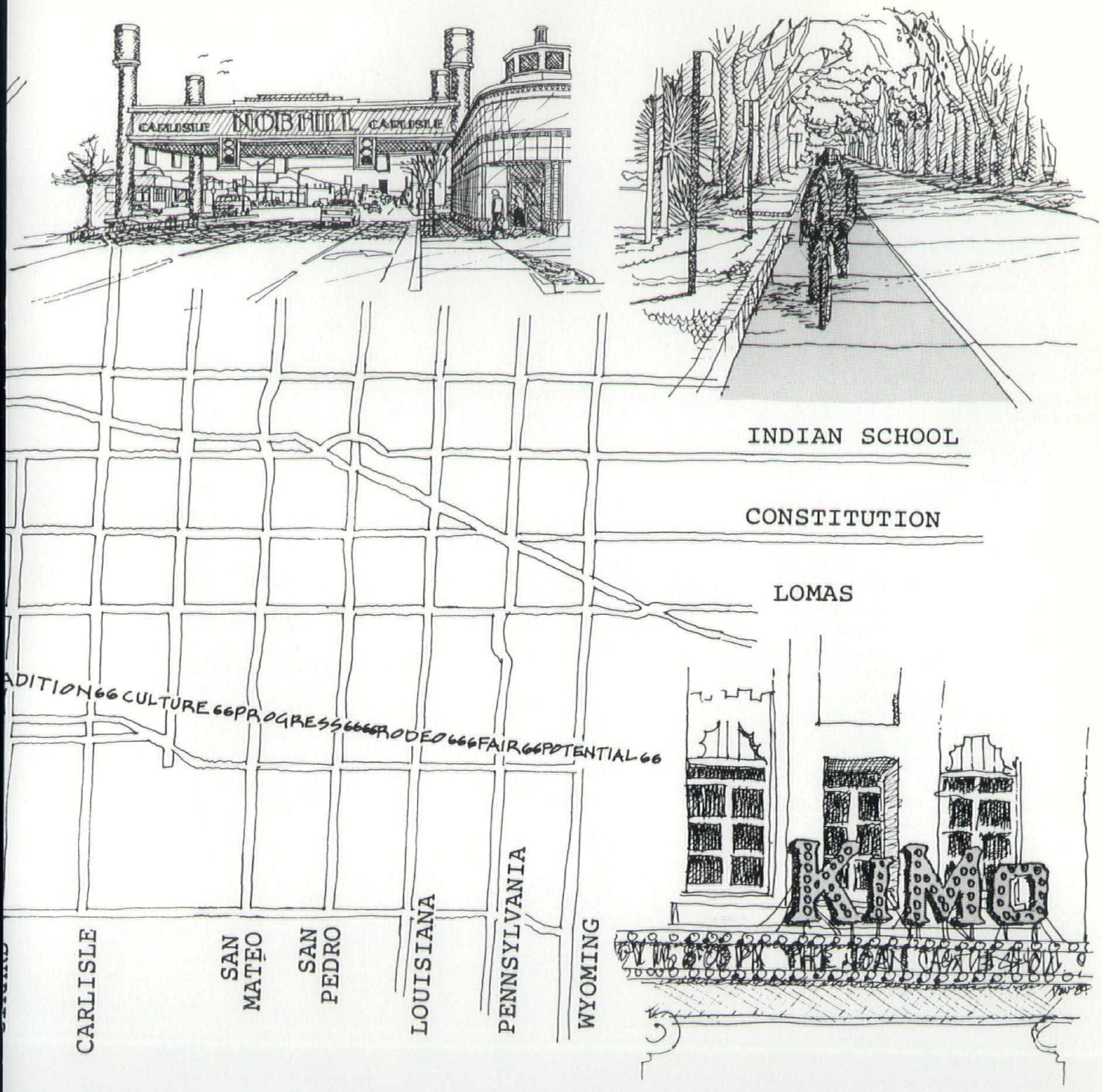


CENTRAL CONCEPTS
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
REGIONAL URBAN DESIGN ASSISTANCE TEAM (R/UDAT)
1984

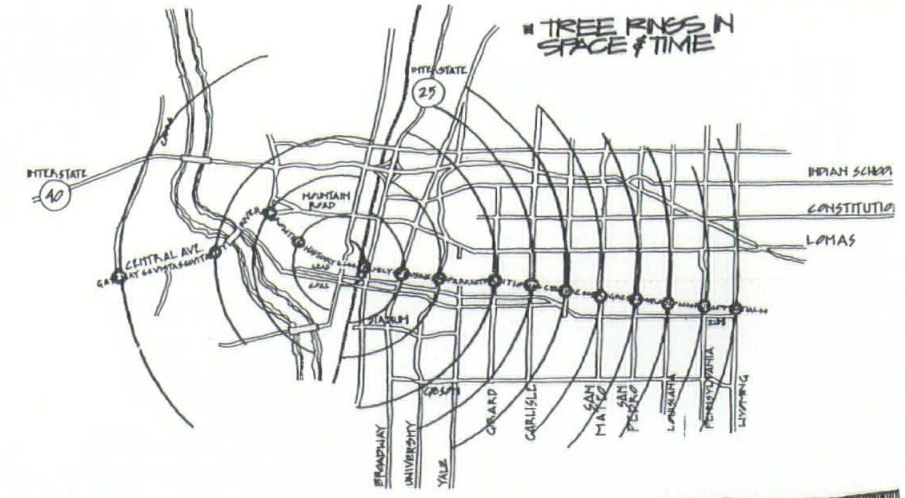
designed access points, land use and architecture.

5. By presenting a strong, positive image Central Avenue can become the showcase for the city in art, commerce, civic activity and entertainment.

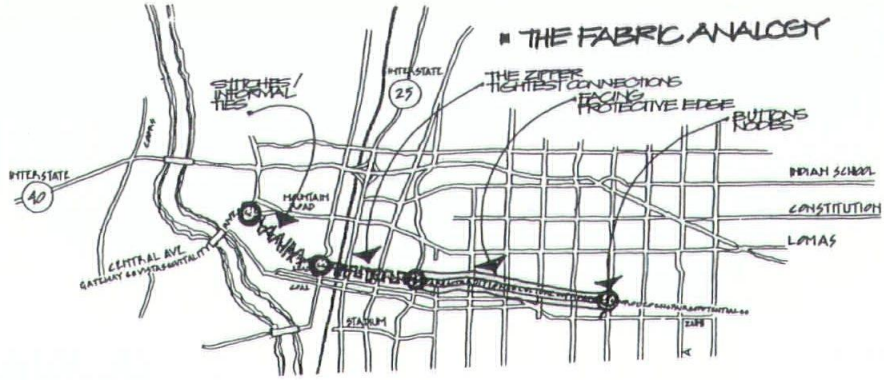
Design principles for the Central Avenue corridor were suggested which included recognizing the change from Route 66, a low density, linear, automobile oriented national highway to a local transportation corridor that links several important activity centers. In order to provide a sense of continuity a theme or overall design approach, incorporating such features as gateways, strandardized landscaping and public art, should be established. High, well-lighted portals expressive of the neighborhood could be installed at key intersections. The street could provide a focal point for the neighborhoods, and support services and activities on the street could be a link to them. The architecture should reflect Albuquerque's historic character and show its pride of place. The street should be more pedestrian oriented with street furniture, trees, street level display windows and retail activity, with a design plan that recognizes walking as part of every trip a person makes. The city should promote public activities along Central Avenue by providing a variety of civic spaces and encouraging their use. The institutions along the street should relate more to it to encourage interaction.

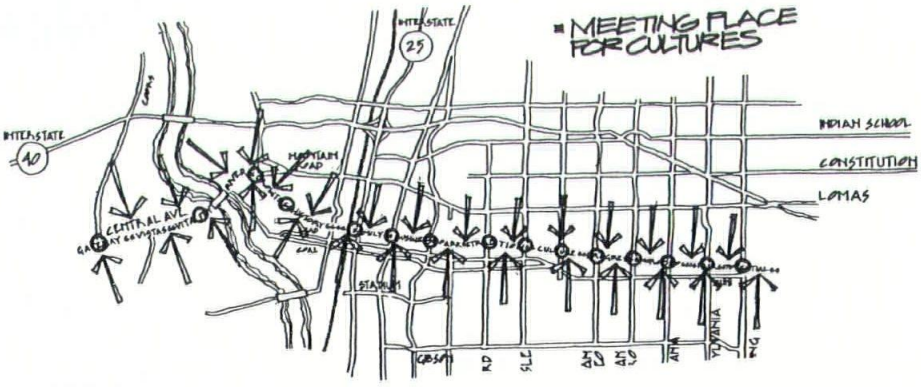
The transit system should be improved and high density development along the street encouraged. When the Avenue is improved, traffic on local residential streets should be reduced or eliminated by building diverters, loop streets, cul-de-sacs, or flared sidewalks.

R/UDAT looked at Central Avenue beginning where the street drops off the West Mesa and begins to descend into the city. The first segment addressed was from that point to the river. They pointed out that the rapid development of the West Mesa will impact heavily on Central Avenue. A growth management plan for the West



THE MUSIC ANALOGY





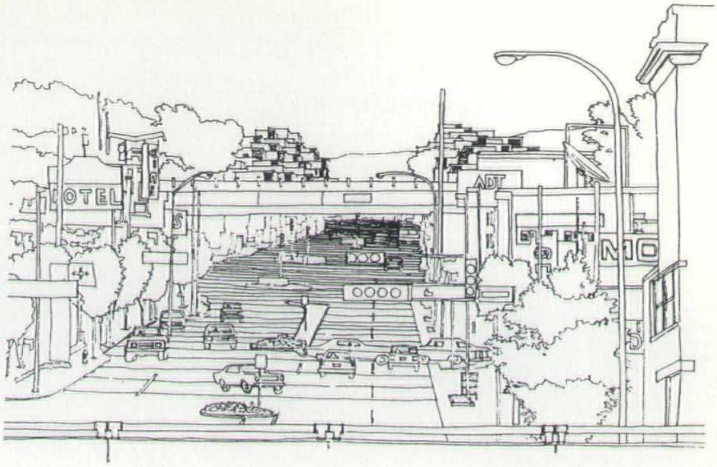
Mesa is necessary and the resources offered by the street must be included. They recommended that the Corridor Concepts be used and lighted pylons be erected at Coors Road and at Atrisco Boulevard. The strongest point they made about this part of Central Avenue is that the magnificent vistas of the valley, the city and the mountains as seen from the mesa should be emphasised in planning and development.

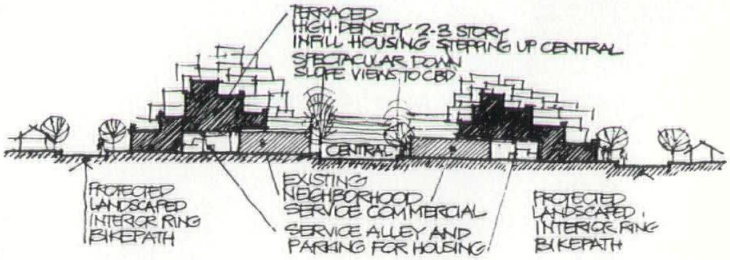
From the river to downtown the team noted that Old Town is not a presence on Central, just a bend in the road, but if the parking lot for Old Town were improved it would make a major transformation in the image of the gateway from Central Avenue to the Old Town Plaza. They recognized the active, well organized neighborhood groups in this area and their positive attitudes for improvement. The Downtown Neighborhood Association has pushed for a reintegration of the Avenue's businesses with neighborhood needs. The team recommended recycling existing commercial properties, especially motels, for modern commercial purposes; erecting portals at Rio Grande Boulevard, 14th Street and Robinson Park; initiating a tree planting program, establishing sign standards and the removal of utility poles to clean up the streetscape.

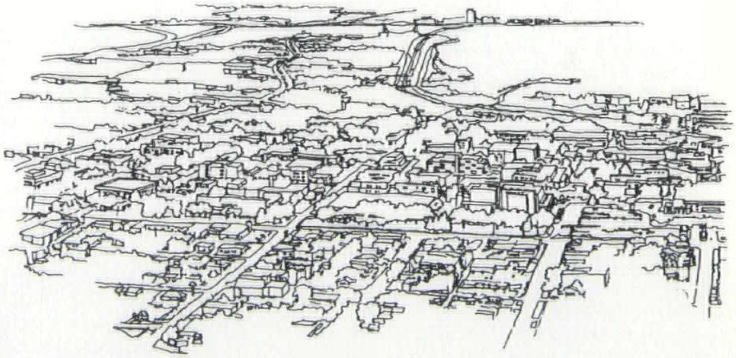
Naturally the Downtown received the most attention. The team recognized the historic aspects of Central Avenue, its traditional linking of Old Town to the railroad station, as well as its role in retailing and the accommodation of tourists, when Highway 66 was a major east-west route, and they noted the reasons for the Avenue's decline. They pointed out the many projects that have been completed in the last few years that are reshaping the Downtown. They suggested continuing the Corridor in its traditional role for circulation and retail merchandising. They stressed the need to pay more attention to pedestrian circulation by creating a cultural park as a transition to the Banner Square development and creating more pedestrian malls out of existing streets. Other ideas suggested providing shuttle service to Old Town and other nearby areas, improving parking facilities, construction of infill commercial uses on open lots and the reduction of traffic volume on Central Avenue.

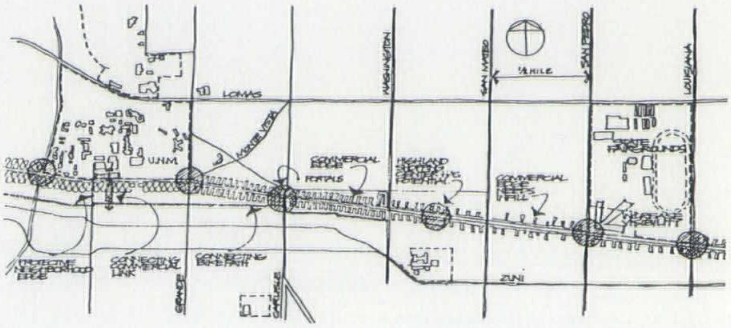
The team supported the concept of the Festival Marketplace, but had strong reservations about the present proposal. Unfortunately they did not say what those reservations were. They recognized the desire to connect Downtown with the city to the east and stated that this and other goals could be met and managed.

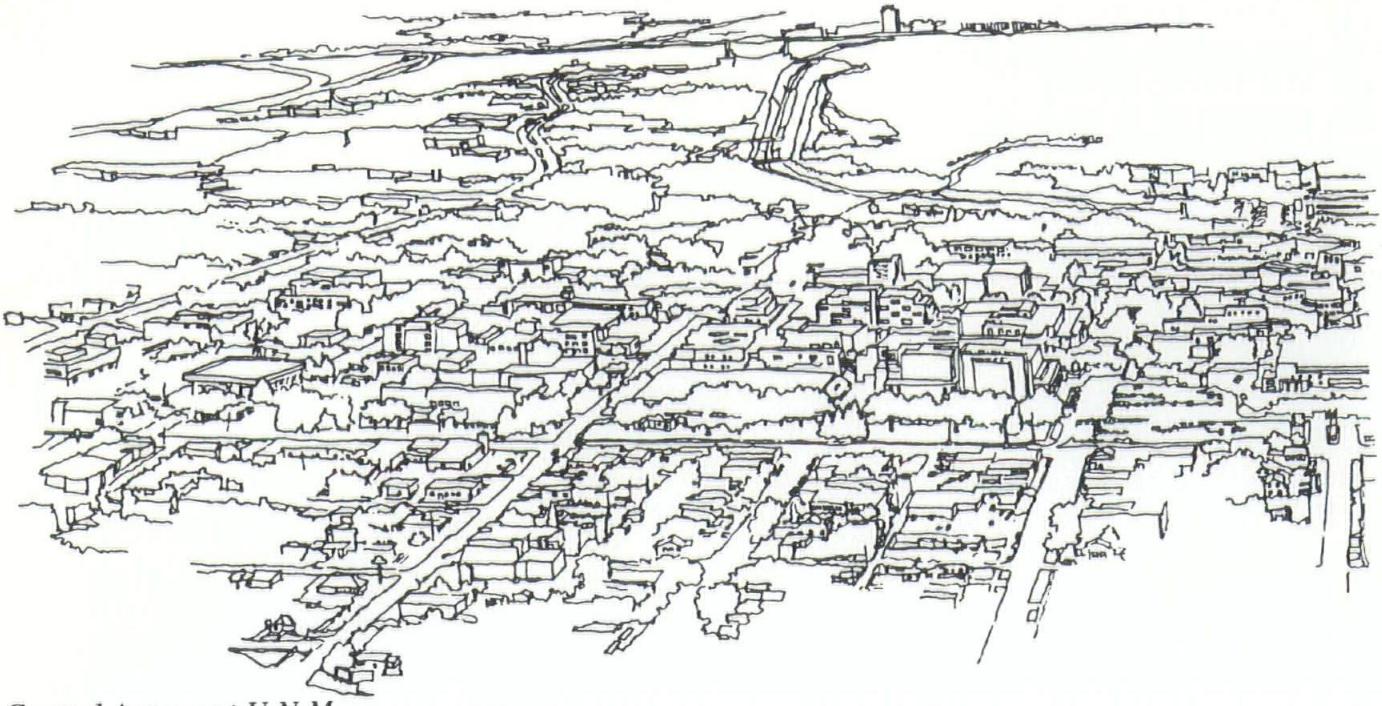
Moving eastward R/UDAT next identified an area from the railroad to the University of New Mexico. They noted the impact of the railroad overpass and the interstate highway crossing as visual barriers across Central Avenue as the ascent from Downtown up to the mountains begins. They noted the lack of good pedestrian and bicycle access through the "barriers". They lauded the landscaping of the street and the Banner Square project as positive developments which will improve the area. They recommended that the neighborhood edges be at least one block deep, closing perhaps three out of four cross streets in order to reduce traffic in the neighborhoods. Some of these closed intersections could be used as collection spots



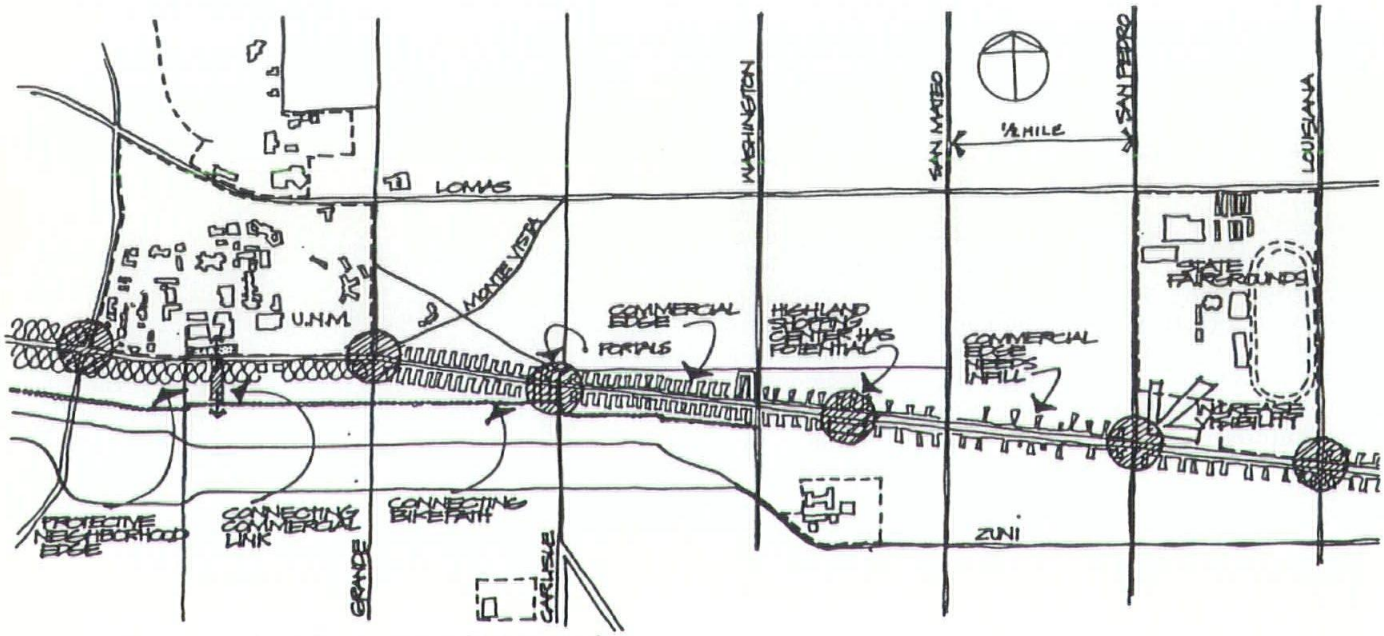




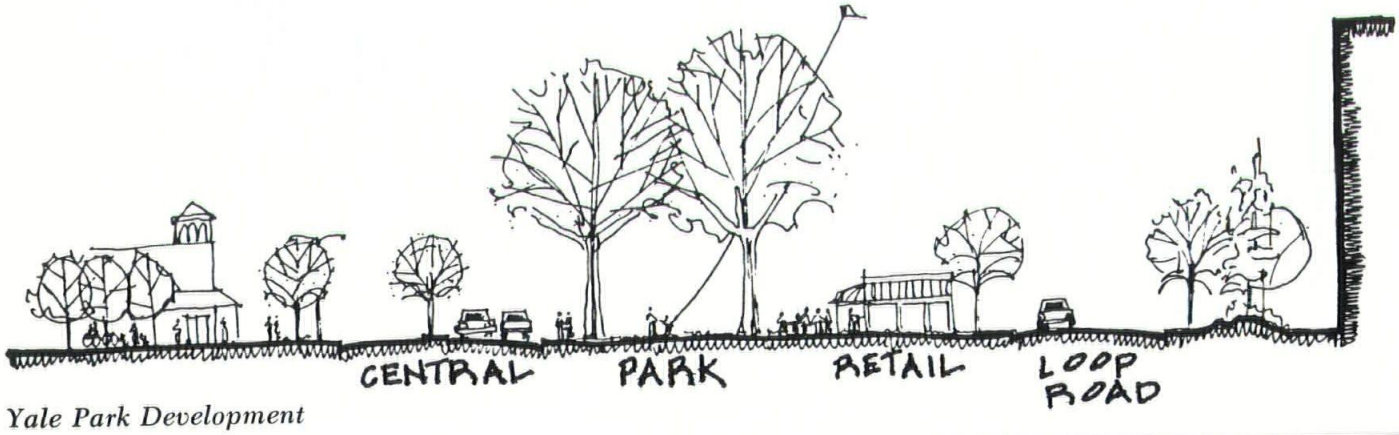




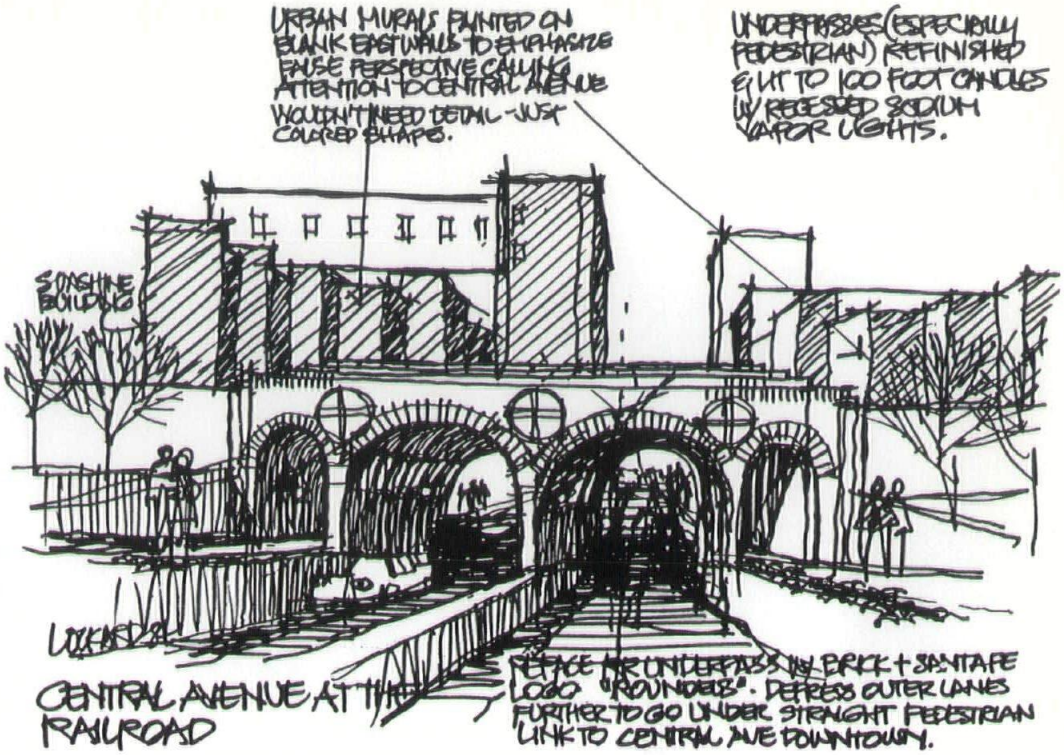
Central Avenue at U.N.M.



Corridor Concept - U.N.M. to State Fairgrounds



Yale Park Development



for pedestrians, bus and bicycle riders for a safe crossing of the street. Another idea put forward was the establishment of a bicycle path along Silver Avenue to connect the University with the south and west part of the city. The University should provide separate specifically designed bicycle entrances and conveniently located, well lighted bicycle parking lots. Pylon locations were Broadway, University Boulevard, Nob Hill, Highland Mall, and both the east and west limits of the State Fairgrounds.

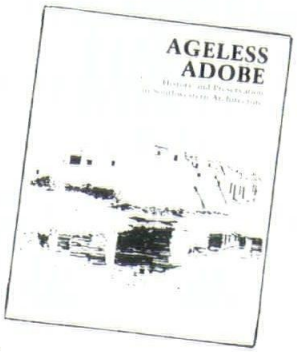
A suggestion was made to locate some University functions toward Central Avenue including the introduction of small scale retail activity into Yale Park. Corridor design concepts already stated should be used in this sector while more intensive use of the land in the eastern segment encouraged. If the State Fair is relocated plans should be made so that the grounds do not remain a vacant eyesore on the Avenue.

R/UDAT's implementation recommendations state that leadership, the essential ingredients, must come from the mayor, a community leader, a civic organization, or anyone whose interests clearly lie with the entire Avenue. When leadership is established a coalition of all principal parties in the corridor must be formed. The revitalization will take many years and during that time the merchant association, cultural institutions, and other interested groups should collaborate on a marketing and promotional campaign for the Central Avenue corridor. A management process that monitors progress, allocates resources, and establishes accountability must be devised. Options are:

1. **A Central Avenue Commission,** similar to Washington D.C.'s Pennsylvania Avenue Commission to plan and oversee all development along the Avenue in behalf of the City.
2. **A Central Avenue Task Force,** representing all interests on the Avenue to review, evalute, and advise on public and private development activities.
3. **A City Office For Central Ave. Development,** in the office of the Mayor or C.A.O., with command authority over all departments to implement the revitalization plan.
4. **A Central Avenue Association,** a nonprofit corporation to plan for, monitor, and promote avenue revitalization.

After the final report was presented to the public the Harte-Hanks Direct Marketing, Inc., publishers of the Door Store Shopper, printed and distributed 95,000 copies of the report at their cost.

AGELESS ADOBE
by Jerome Iowa



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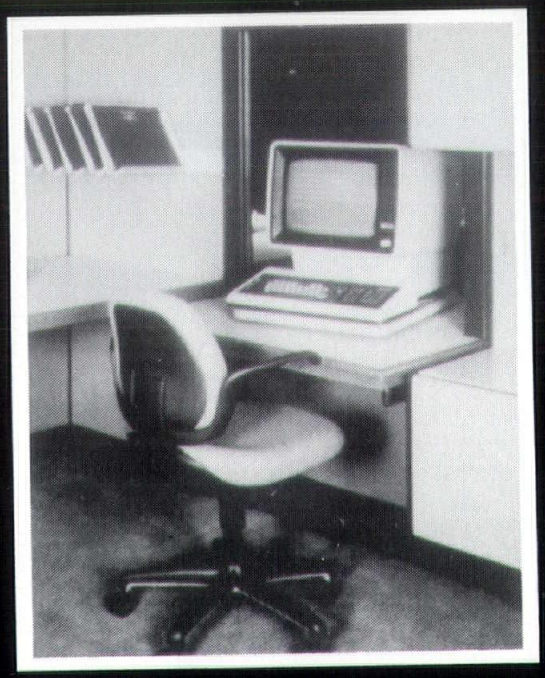

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Continued from page 5

the Museum of New Mexico; he ran afoul of local preservationists when he and the Museum Board of Regents felt that a single much altered, but historic, old house should make way for an exciting new museum addition. The old house still stands.

Morton Hoppenfeld, AIA, former Dean of the University of New Mexico School of Architecture, died of a heart attack in Columbia, Maryland on Tuesday March 26, 1985. After leaving New Mexico to return to the east, he joined the Enterprise development firm which is responsible for the designs of Albuquerque's proposed Festival Market Place. Hoppenfeld was an outspoken critic of Albuquerque when he was here. While he saw great potential for Albuquerque's future development, he felt that the cities' planning processes encouraged "the uglification of the city". To a great extent he was correct, but, at the same time, he was not sensitive to the potential for the preservation of what was left from Albuquerque's historic past. Rather, his recently produced designs for the Festival Market Place, while exciting in many aspects, call for the elimination of the Sunshine Building, a building, to be sure, of no great architectural merit, but it is a rare downtown souvenir from Albuquerque's past. Further it is a building of sound structure in a time when to waste it is rather stupid and it is one of the few remaining New Mexico examples of the work of prominent early twentieth century architects, Trost & Trost. But, to my way of thinking, even more insensitive to history, the Festival Market Place designs, as I understand them, call for the reincarnation of the facades of the long deceased Alvarado Hotel as a romantic (or Disneyland) touch in the Market Place. Be that as it may, I wish, also, to emphasize that architect Morton Hoppenfeld produced fine and rightly praised architectural design work during his career, including the city in which he died, Columbia, Maryland.

JPC

HOUSING COMPLEX WINS CITATION IN NATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION

For the second year in a row, architect Antoine Predock of Albuquerque, New Mexico, has won a citation in the annual P/A Awards program, sponsored by *Progressive Architecture* magazine. This year's citation honors a 74-unit apartment building with lower and middle income occupancy in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"The Beach," as the complex is called, organizes one, two, and three bedroom apartments into four clusters along Highway 66, overlooking the Albuquerque Country Club.

The project was praised by the jurors as a "bold and fresh" approach to the problem of multi-unit housing, one which "generates a tremendous sense of presence and vitality." The jury also noted the scheme's manipulation of silhouette and color to create a highly visual, eye-catching elevation on the highway. The integrally colored stucco facades and tile roofs draw upon the architectural tradition of the Southwest, while the introduction of motel-style parking courts, and the use of neon lighting relate to the "honkey-tonk sensibility" of Highway 66.

The presentation of the citation was made at the 32nd Annual P/A Awards luncheon on Friday, January 25, at the Plaza Hotel in New York.

AN INVITATION TO MEMBERS

The New Mexico Southern Chapter is sponsoring the 1985 New Mexico Society State Convention September 20 and 21 in Ruidoso, New Mexico at the Inn of the Mountain Gods.

There will be a Lakeside Bar-b-que on the 20th, NMSA breakfast Saturday, lunch for Architects and Exhibitors, a brunch and special entertainment for the ladies. The banquet will be Saturday night.

Three seminars will be held on Saturday.

An art show open to Architects, Interns and spouses. Contact Charles Nolan, P. O. Box 1788, Alamogordo, NM 88311 for information concerning the Art Show and the GOLF TOURNAMENT.

Duane Dorsey can be contacted at P. O. Box 3545, Las Cruces, NM 88003 for information on booth space for Exhibitors.

Allen Terrell, P. O. Drawer J, Clovis, NM 88101 (505) 762-2968, Alan McChesney, P. O. Box 251, Alto, NM 88312 or Olivia Durham, 1412 Chico, Carlsbad, NM 88220 (505) 885-5161 can be contacted for additional information.

We encourage everyone to mark September 20 and 21 on your calendar now for a fun week-end. We look forward to seeing you there.

Olivia Durham
Executive Assistant

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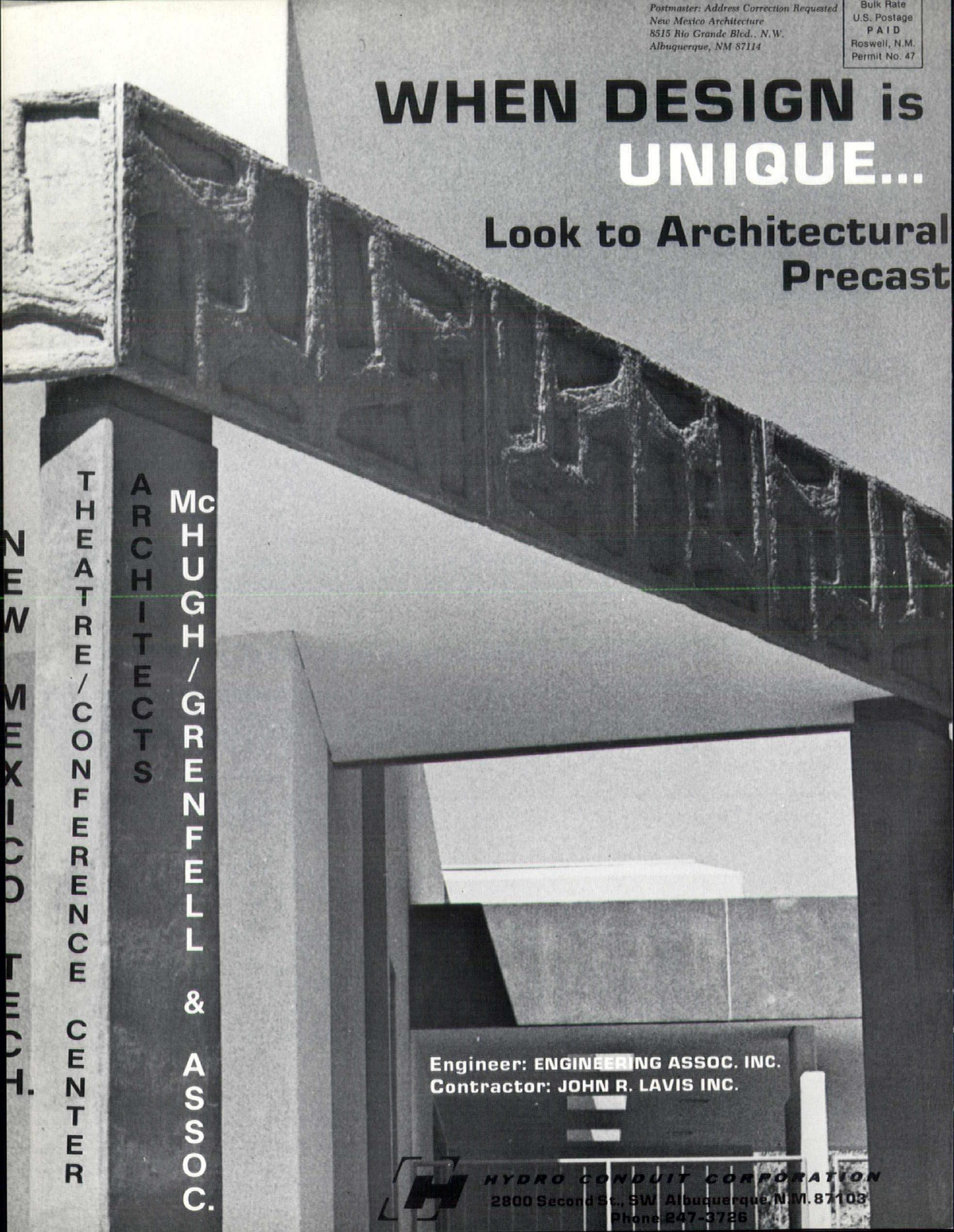

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